

# *Village of Malcolm*

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April 1, 2020

Malcolm Residents:

Enclosed is a flyer “Protect Your Sewer, Protect Your Environment” with some good information regarding how to keep the sewer system safe.

Despite their name, “Flushable” wipes are not so flushable. Did you know that baby wipes may also specify that they are flushable, but they should not be put in our wastewater system. This also includes adult wipes, cleaning wipes (Clorox, Lysol), medical wipes, paper towels, etc.

To ensure our sewer system continues to run smoothly, the only paper product that should be flushed is toilet paper. It is the only paper designated to break down as it travels through the wastewater treatment process.

Just a few additional friendly reminders:

**Malcolm road resurfacing** – Malcolm Road from East Street (old high school road) to Education Drive will be milled and resurfaced starting soon. We will also be adding curb and gutter in front of the houses from Hudkins Road to 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

**Dog Licensing applications** – are due by June 1, 2020.

**Cross Connection Control Reporting Form** – is due by June 1, 2020.

**COVID-19** – The Village of Malcolm has not closed the parks at this point and would like to remind our residents that we do not sanitize the equipment. Please keep that in mind if you choose to continue sending your kids to the playgrounds.

Malcolm Village Board



## WHAT TO FLUSH

Sewers are designed to take our wastewater and carry it safely to a treatment plant. But other items often get flushed and can create problems. We all need to keep things flowing through the sewer. Poop, pee and toilet paper? Okay. Everything else? Put it in the trash or recycle.

### Here's a quick quiz:

1. Do you want to keep raw sewage from backing up into your home?
2. Would you like to keep sewage from bubbling out of the manhole in the street outside?
3. When you flush your toilet, would you rather see the water go down instead of overflowing?

If you answered yes to any of these, then don't use your toilet as a trash can!

## NOT CONVINCED? TRY THIS SIMPLE TEST

Take a square of toilet paper, put it in a jar of water and swish it gently with a stick. The toilet paper quickly disintegrates, just as it would in a sewer.

Now try the same thing with a baby wipe. It doesn't break apart and, in fact, the things are pretty near indestructible in a sewer system! Try the same thing with a paper towel.

Remember, just because it goes down when you flush, that doesn't mean it's not going to cause a problem. Below is a picture of baby wipes from the sewer.



Shop rags and paper.

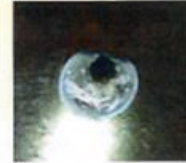


## WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

Sewer blockages can cause all of these:

1. Plugged and overflowing toilets.
2. Poorly draining sinks and showers.
3. Raw sewage backing up through your drain.
4. Manholes overflowing onto the ground or into nearby surface waters.
5. Health hazards and nuisance odors.
6. Increases in the city's maintenance costs.
7. Costly maintenance and repair bills for you.

Below is section of pipe plugged with



The cord between these 2 ear plugs is wrapped around rags. Dental floss does the same thing.

